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Letter dated 4 April 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolution 1575 (2004) of 22 November 2004, I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 17 March 2005, which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), covering the period from 2 December 2004 to the end of February 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 17 March 2005 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1575 (2004), I attach the first three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from the launch of the mission on 2 December 2004 to the end of February. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 2 December 2004 to 28 February 2005.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 1551 (2004) of 9 July 2004, welcomed the European Union's intention to launch a European Union mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a military component, from December 2004, following the NATO announcement, at Istanbul in June 2004, of its intention to terminate its SFOR operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The European Union consequently decided, also in July 2004, to launch a successor military operation, and the Security Council, by resolution 1575 (2004) of 22 November 2004, therefore authorized the Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, to establish for an initial planned period of 12 months a multinational stabilization force (EUFOR) as a legal successor to SFOR.

3. The European Union launched Operation Althea on December 2004. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee acting under the authority of the Council of the European Union, EUFOR conducts operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to provide deterrence, continue compliance with the responsibility to fulfil the role specified in annexes 1-A and 2 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and contribute to the safe and secure environment, in line with its mandate, required to achieve core tasks in the Office of the High Representative's mission implementation plan and the stabilization and association process.

4. This new European Union military operation reinforces the European Union's comprehensive approach towards Bosnia and Herzegovina and supports that country's progress towards European Union integration by its own efforts, with the objective of the signing of a stabilization and association agreement as a medium-term objective.

5. The force currently comprises some 6,500 troops from 22 European Union member States and 11 third countries,[a] which are deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in three regional multinational task forces and EUFOR headquarters. Cyprus and Malta also contribute to the common costs of the operation.

Political background

6. During the reporting period the political scene in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been dominated by the decisions taken on 16 December by Lord Ashdown, in his capacity as High Representative, outlining eight measures to address the continued

[a] Countries contributing to EUFOR: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Morocco, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey.

failure of Republika Srpska to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Those measures consisted of individual sanctions, including the removal from office of nine officials and the blocking of bank accounts, as well as demands for specific systemic reforms to Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement and security institutions. National measures were taken simultaneously by other members of the international community.

7. Those measures were followed, inter alia, by the resignation of the Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, Dragan Mikerevic, and the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mladen Ivanic. The National Assembly of Republika Srpska accepted Mikerevic's resignation and on 8 January the President of Republika Srpska, Dragan Cavic, named Pero Bukejlovic as Prime Minister designate.

8. On 15 February, the new Prime Minister and his government were confirmed by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. This outcome should pave the way for a solution at the State level, although at the time of writing the situation at the State level had not been definitively resolved.

9. On 15 January, Republika Srpska authorities transferred indictee Savo Todovic to The Hague. The first such transfer of a Tribunal indictee in nine years by the Republika Srpska authorities, this is a significant step forward and comes as a result of sustained pressure by the international community. In response to Tribunal indictments unsealed on 24 February, a former Bosnia and Herzegovina Army Commander, General Rasim Delic, and two former Republic Srpska Army Commanders, Generals Milan Gvero and Radivoje Miletic, agreed to surrender to The Hague. Cooperation with the Tribunal however remains the main difficulty preventing Bosnia and Herzegovina from moving forward within the European Union stabilization and association process.

10. The Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adnan Terzic, has established a monitoring group for cooperation with the Tribunal. Established on the basis of a recommendation of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, the Monitoring Group will seek to strengthen coordination between all agencies and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible for ensuring full cooperation with The Hague. It is not, however, a forum for sharing operational or intelligence information. The Group holds weekly meetings in Sarajevo. The first meeting was held on 11 February and was chaired by the Prime Minister and the High Representative and European Union Special Representative, Lord Ashdown. Other participants include officials from State and entity authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with specific responsibilities vis-à-vis the Tribunal, as well as representatives of EUFOR and the European Union Police Mission. EUFOR remains committed to assisting the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the Tribunal in the apprehension of persons indicted for war crimes. The force will continue to support the Monitoring Group as part of its coordination with the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the international community.

11. The Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities made considerable progress during 2004 towards fulfilling the legislative requirements of the European Community feasibility study. Although the majority of legislative steps had been completed by the end of 2004, the European Community was not yet ready to declare "significant progress" across the 16 priority areas listed in the feasibility study. The main focus for the coming months will be on the implementation of the adopted legislation.

required by the feasibility study; on the adoption of police restructuring arrangements — itself a feasibility study requirement — in line with three key principles enumerated by the European Commission; and on ensuring the full cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the Republika Srpska entity, with the Tribunal.

EUFOR activities

12. The launch of EUFOR has strengthened the existing substantial engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the European Union. Although it has been operational for only a short time, the synergies between EUFOR and other European Union actors on the ground have started to take effect. EUFOR is contributing to the Union's political engagement, its assistance programmes and its ongoing police and monitoring missions. A strong emphasis on a smooth and seamless military transition between SFOR and EUFOR, together with a robust and energetic approach to the start of its mandate, have established EUFOR as a credible force.

13. Key components of the mission profile are deterrence and reassurance, which are achieved by projecting an overt and visible presence, robustness and, above all, authority and impartiality. The concept of the operation is intelligence driven, achieving military tasks by maintaining a robust situational awareness.

14. An important early demonstration of EUFOR support to local authorities was the conduct of a EUFOR operation to inspect all underground military facilities, closing and sealing those not required for official civil or military use. This was undertaken across Bosnia and Herzegovina, in consultation with the European Union Special Representative. In particular, in mid-December 2004, the Han Pijesak military installation, 40 km north-east of Sarajevo, was inspected. This area is suspected of having been used by persons indicted for war crimes to escape apprehension. This assertive and high-profile operation immediately established the visibility and authority of EUFOR and made a positive early impact both nationally and internationally.

15. A further aspect of EUFOR activities is to help support the fight against organized crime; this contributes to a safe and secure environment and supports the objectives of both the High Representative and the local law enforcement agencies. European Union agencies, particularly the Police Mission and the Customs Financial Assistance Office, are closely associated with this aspect of the EUFOR mission. The EUFOR integrated police unit capability is also active in contributing to the fight against organized crime, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, particularly the State Border Service. In support of these activities as well as in general, EUFOR maintains a close relationship with the Police Mission; this includes having Police Mission liaison officers attached to the force at the various command levels.

16. Weapons collection activities continue to yield large numbers of arms and ammunition: from 2 December 2004 to 31 January 2005, over 1,300 small arms; over 200,000 rounds of ammunition; over 2,000 hand grenades and mines and over 400 kg of explosives have been collected or turned in.

17. EUFOR continues to monitor Bosnia and Herzegovina entity armed forces activities and also provides assistance to joint training initiatives aimed at achieving improved internal inter-operability. Proposed joint training activities for 2005 have

not yet been approved by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence. Inspections of military sites and defence industry facilities are carried out daily; there remain 130 military sites that require inspection on a 90-day rotation and 19 defence industry facilities that are inspected on a 180-day rotation. A reduction in the number of military sites is expected this year. Related to compliance is movement control and the import/export of weapons; EUFOR receives and processes approximately 200 movement requests per month.

18. Work also continues towards establishing a demining coordination section for the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their Ministry of Defence. EUFOR is providing support to the Bosnia and Herzegovina demining activities in the south and east of the country; a total of eight supervisory teams are deployed. Owing to the severe winter conditions in the Balkans, however, actual mine clearance has been minimal during the reporting period.

19. EUFOR has developed a close and effective working relationship with the remaining NATO presence in Sarajevo. The clear delineation of responsibilities and tasks between both headquarters has greatly assisted understanding and mutual cooperation, especially with regard to activities relating to the reform and restructuring of the defence infrastructure of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Outlook

20. The transition process has gone well and there is wide understanding of the EUFOR mission. Broadly speaking, the force has experienced a positive reaction from the main political parties, local authorities and the population as a whole. Coordination and cooperation with the European Union Special Representative, other European Union actors, and the rest of the international community is well developed. The previously cited operation concerning underground facilities, associated with the High Representative's measures of 16 December, is one example of this synchronized use of military and political means to achieve coherent results. Obstructionism and organized crime are likely, however, to continue to require strong and concerted action on the part of the European Union, including EUFOR, the European Union Police Mission and the local authorities.

21. EUFOR plans to continue its existing pattern of activities and approach to its mission as described, carrying out operations in accordance with its mandate, while maintaining a visible and robust profile. EUFOR will continue to help the local authorities to improve their indigenous ability and capacity, including to counter organized crime, in the framework of operations which will be carried out in the coming months. In addition, elements of the assigned reserve for EUFOR will be exercised in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the near future.